

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

## APRIL 2003



### Employers: List your job openings in JobNet at NO COST to you!

With over 58,000 registered JobNet users, in addition to internet users, per month, you will have an excellent opportunity to find qualified professionals and candidates of all skill levels for your job openings. Contact your local Job Center by calling 1-888-258-9966, or visiting our web site at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/directory/default.htm>. Direct access to JobNet is <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/jobnet/mapWI.htm>

### Higher unemployment rates show in March

The March unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a point in the **Kenosha MSA** to 6.5 percent. This figure is not seasonally adjusted. This month's rate is two-tenths of a point higher than the figure for March of 2002 and is indicative of the mixed news of 920 more residents indicating they are employed, but also that 200 more are unemployed over the year. This is the highest March unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) for the county since the 7.3 percent clip registered in 1991.

Kenosha industry employment figures show a net increase of 200 jobs over the month. Education and health services employment showed the largest monthly gain of about 300 jobs. The majority of industries' performances were rather flat over the month as can be usual in March. Construction employment, which had been setting record numbers of employment last year, has been moderating a bit. It is still strong by historical standards, but declined by about 100 jobs in March. Annually, Kenosha has a net job deficit of approximately 300 jobs since March 2002. Yearly increases were seen in education and health services, retail trade, while continued, annual employment decreases were seen in manufacturing and wholesale trade employment.

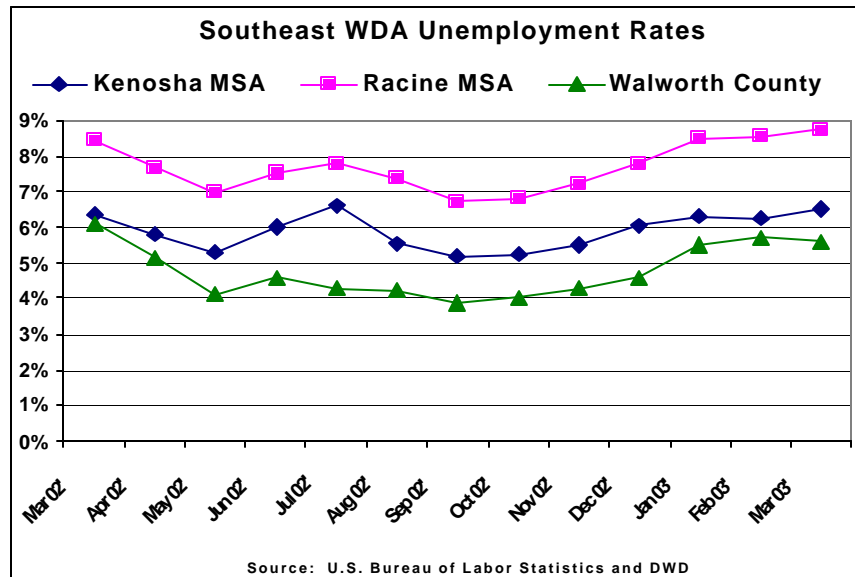
The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.7 percent in March. This is the highest rate for March since the 10.0 percent rate measured in 1986. This month's rate is obviously closely tied to the

13.0 percent mark that the City of Racine is experiencing this month. Labor force figures at the city level show a rate of 13.6 percent in March 1986, which is the March high point. The most recent, previous month that the city reached the 13 percent mark was January of 1992.

Racine's industry employment registered 400 fewer jobs, net, over the month. Government and business services employment showed the largest losses and many industries were stagnant in growth/decline. Over the year, Racine shows no net job growth and losses were experienced in manufacturing and wholesale trade.

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in March. This is a decrease over the month and year by one-tenth and five-tenths of a point, respectively.

Walworth has gained about 200 jobs since February, which is satisfactory growth for March. Most industries showed little or no employment gain. Leisure and hospitality showed a loss of employment, but will probably produce gains in the next few, consecutive months. Annually, industry employment shows a net deficit of 200 jobs. Education and health services along with leisure and hospitality posted large annual gains for a combined 800 jobs, but these gains could not offset the annual losses in total trade, construction and government employment—to name a few. Manufacturing employment seems to have leveled off over the year, but does not dismiss the fact that 2002 had shown considerably lower employment in this sector already.



<b>March 2003</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Kenosha County/MSA</b>	<b>Racine County/MSA</b>	<b>Walworth County</b>	<b>Southeast WDA</b>	<b>City of Kenosha</b>	<b>City of Racine</b>
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,083,191	82,987	95,649	54,364	233,000	49,117	40,117
Persons Employed	2,883,499	77,570	87,295	51,318	216,183	45,358	34,890
Persons Unemployed	199,692	5,417	8,354	3,046	16,817	3,759	5,227
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.5%	8.7%	5.6%	7.2%	7.7%	13.0%
<b>Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	2732.1	52.7	78.9	40.0	171.6		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	620.8	12.4	23.5	10.0	45.9		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	2111.3	40.3	55.4	30.0	125.7		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	104.7	1.9	3.4	1.4	6.7		
All Manufacturing	516.1	10.5	20.1	8.6	39.2		
Total Trade	422.1	8.6	12.5	4.9	26.0		
Wholesale Trade	114.5	1.9	3.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	307.6	6.7	9.5	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	103.7	1.6	1.8	1.2	4.6		
Financial Activities	152.7	1.6	2.5	0.9	5.0		
Education and Health Services	362.4	7.5	10.2	4.0	21.7		
Leisure & Hospitality	223.6	5.6	5.8	6.9	18.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	422.3	6.2	12.0	4.2	22.4		
Information	50.1	0.4	0.7	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	234.3	3.1	6.5	xx	xx		
Other Services	137.9	2.7	4.8	xx	xx		
All Government	424.5	9.2	10.6	7.8	27.6		
<b>Change from February 2003</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	2,000	-340	-600	100	-840	-150	-150
Persons Employed	1,220	-440	-750	150	-1,040	-260	-300
Persons Unemployed	780	100	150	-50	200	100	150
Unemployment Rate	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
<b>Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	9.7	0.2	-0.4	0.2	0.0		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.1		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	10.1	0.4	-0.4	0.2	0.2		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	0.8	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0		
All Manufacturing	-1.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1		
Total Trade	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1		
Wholesale Trade	0.5	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Education and Health Services	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4		
Leisure & Hospitality	3.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	2.9	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0		
Information	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	0.7	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	1.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	1.7	0.1	-0.4	0.1	-0.2		
<b>Change from March 2002</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	68,370	1,120	2,330	580	4,030	590	1,320
Persons Employed	70,410	920	1,850	830	3,600	540	740
Persons Unemployed	-2,040	200	480	-240	430	50	580
Unemployment Rate	-0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	-0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	1.0%
<b>Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	6.0	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	-0.4		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-18.3	-0.8	-0.3	-0.2	-1.3		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	24.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.9		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-5.8	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.3		
All Manufacturing	-12.4	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	-1.0		
Total Trade	-2.2	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1		
Wholesale Trade	1.8	-0.1	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-4.0	0.2	0.3	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1		
Financial Activities	1.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1		
Education and Health Services	10.5	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.7		
Leisure & Hospitality	4.2	0.0	-0.1	0.5	0.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	8.8	0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.1		
Information	-0.5	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	1.9	0.1	0.2	xx	xx		
Other Services	7.4	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.2	-0.1		

\* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. \*\*Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Market Economist**  
201 E. Washington Avenue, Room G200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: [eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us)  
Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)